

01-103 Mental Health Advocacy Service

Agency Description

The Mental Health Advocacy Service (MHAS) is a statewide service established to provide legal counsel and representation to mentally disabled persons and to ensure that their legal rights are protected (LSA-R.S. 28:2(13)). The MHAS handles virtually every mental health commitment hearing in Louisiana and provides legal representation on matters pertaining to legal competency and patient rights. The service furnishes legal representation during the initial stages of confinement of mentally ill persons and after commitment has occurred in order to comply with a federal court order, *Brad G v. Treen*, C.A. #81-1094 (E.D. La.) and with state law, LSA-R.S. 28:55(C). The MHAS has a Table of Organization (T.O.) of 15 persons statewide in six separate offices (administrative Headquarters in Baton Rouge and five field offices).

The MHAS is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of nine members represented from: the deans of the law school or their designated faculty member for Loyola, Tulane, Southern and LSU, from the medical schools at LSU and Tulane; the president of the Mental Health Association of Louisiana or his representative; and a selected member from the Louisiana Medical Society and the Louisiana Bar Association as required by L.R.S. 28:64 (B).

The Mental Health Advocacy Service has only one program, Administrative. Therefore the mission and goals of the Mental Health Advocacy Service are the same as those listed for the Administrative program in the description that follows.

AGENCY BUDGET SUMMARY

	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACT 13 2002-2003	EXISTING 2002-2003	CONTINUATION 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED 2003-2004	RECOMMENDED OVER/(UNDER) EXISTING
MEANS OF FINANCING:						
STATE GENERAL FUND (Direct)	\$806,264	\$795,374	\$795,374	\$868,406	\$847,280	\$51,906
STATE GENERAL FUND BY:						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-gen. Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	0	7,237	7,237	0	0	(7,237)
Interim Emergency Board	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL MEANS OF FINANCING	\$806,264	\$802,611	\$802,611	\$868,406	\$847,280	\$44,669
EXPENDITURES & REQUEST:						
Administrative	\$806,264	\$802,611	\$802,611	\$868,406	\$847,280	\$44,669
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND REQUEST	\$806,264	\$802,611	\$802,611	\$868,406	\$847,280	\$44,669
AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME						
EQUIVALENTS: Classified	14	14	14	14	14	0
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
TOTAL	15	15	15	15	15	0